



CONFLICT MITIGATION

Better road and better medical service facilities dedicated

USAID and its partners dedicated two new infrastructure projects, Ibarski Odredi - Road Rehabilitation project in Leposavic/q, and the Rehabilitation of an Infirmary in Zupce, Zubin Potok municipality. The projects are part of an ongoing effort to improve basic infrastructure needs in minority areas.



Left to right: Tina Kaidanow, USOP Chief of Mission, Velimir Bojovic, Mayor of Leposaviq/c, and Sladjan Radovic, community representative cut the ceremonial ribbon at the Ibarski Odredi road in Leposavic/q.

Tina Kaidanow, United States Office in Pristina Chief of Mission, visited the projects, where she met with Community Working Group representatives and discussed some of the issues communities are faced with. "One of the best aspects of my job is celebrating successful project that really make a difference in people's lives," said Kaidanow in her address to the residents of Ibarski Odredi street in Leposavic/q municipality.

The total cost of the projects dedicated was \$76,392. The projects were implemented in partnership with Mercy Corps and the International Organization for Migration.

Developing multiculturalism and overcoming barriers to cooperation among youth in Kosovo

A public discussion among students from University of Novi Sad, University of Prishtina and Mitrovica aimed at dismantling interethnic prejudices was held in north of Kosovo during the end of July.

Discussions were organized around provocative topics, such as Return to Kosovo - Challenge or Lack of Willpower, Barriers to Cooperation among Youth from Kosovo, and Perspectives of the Region in the Process of EU Integration. The series concluded with the presentation of a documentary, filmed during the seventies, on multiculturalism and cooperation among communities in Kosovo.

The discussion is a part of the "Youth Dialogue Program", jointly organized by the NGO Media Plus, European Law Students Association (ELSA) in Novi Sad, and the Balkan Institute for Research and Development (BIRD) in Pristina. The discussion gathered some 25 students from all three universities. The event was preceded by three activities aimed at promoting interethnic cooperation: a conference held at Mount Rugova, a rock concert in northern Mitrovica, and a conference held in Fruska Gora. The project encourages young people to explore new venues for everyday interaction and cooperation. To date, this is one of the few initiatives gathering youth from Kosovo and Serbia to discuss multiculturalism and interethnic cooperation. Therefore, the positive messages coming from young Serbs and Albanians in the conference were shared with both local and Serbia-based media.

The discussion was supported through the Kosovo Community Reconciliation Program, a partnership with Freedom House.

Reconciliation through civic education

USAID's new "Project Citizen: Reconciliation through Civic Education" activity was launched on August 22nd with a six-day training for civic education teachers.

Supported by USAID, the program employs an interactive, exercise-driven curriculum, specifically-designed textbooks, and student-led community projects to develop an understanding of the need for responsible participation in democratic self-government.

Working with students at the 6th-12th grade level throughout Kosovo's seven educational districts, the project also aims to increase inter-ethnic trust and communication. More than seventy teachers will be trained to implement "Project Citizen" in their schools.

"We hope 'Project Citizen' and its textbooks and curriculum guides will help strengthen your current civic education classes and help teach Kosovo's youth how to be active, responsible citizens. That's the aim of Project Citizen - to offer practical 'how - to' skills that students apply to their communities today, and that they can use in the future," said Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID/Kosovo Director. Agim Veliu, Minister of Education, Science and Technology, and Alex Laskaris, Deputy Principal Officer of US Office Pristina, joined Dr. Farbman at the launch of the training.

The activity is implemented by Center for Civic Education in cooperation with Civitas Kosova and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Lessons Learned: Conference

A one-day conference to discuss and analyze results from the Kosovo Inclusive Community Change and Reconciliation (KICCR) program, a USAID-supported activity, was held in Pristina on August 14th.

The conference brought together representatives of Kosovo's government, international donors, and other conflict resolution practitioners. Participants engaged in discussion about the development of sustainable Kosovar capacity to resolve community disputes in an inclusive and participatory manner.

KIICCR was implemented in partnership with Partners Kosova, a local chapter of Partners for Democratic Change. KICCR worked in four municipalities to train community leaders to assess potential and unresolved conflicts, facilitate interethnic dialogue, and design and implement mitigating activities.

RULE OF LAW

Interactive teaching at the University of Prishtina

Interactive teaching techniques, and how to incorporate them into lesson planning, was the topic of a workshop organized on July 30 at the University of Prishtina, Faculty of Law.

Ida Bostian, visiting Assistant Professor from Santa Clara University Law School, ran the workshop. She explained several techniques for teaching complex legal materials. With the help of student volunteers, Professor Bostian demonstrated the Socratic Method and how student presentations and simulations can enhance the students' experience.

Using an International Court of Justice opinion on Israel's decision to build a wall along Palestinian territories as a case study, Professor Bostian described how to distill source material for class discussion, how to draft a course syllabus to encourage productive student participation, and how to guide student interactions. She further highlighted how these techniques can be applied and adapted to any law subject.

Organized by the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA/RoLI), and supported by USAID, the workshop was tailored for the university administration and teaching staff.

Upcoming Events

September 7 - Dr. Michael Farbman, USAID Director will speak at the Certification Ceremony of the first Kosovo food producer for HACCP standards.

September 19 - Ribboncutting Ceremony of Joint Venture Initiative, supported by USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support project.

September 20- Improving Outcomes of Pregnancy, a two day conference organized by USAID supported Kosovo - Dartmouth Alliance for Healthy Newborns.



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